

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

November 19, 2003

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg

The following notes are a summary of issues that are intended to point out future actions or issues that may need further discussion at upcoming meetings. These notes are not intended to be the "record" of the meeting, only a reminder for TMT members.

Chum Update:

Ron Boyce, Oregon, reported that on November 14th, 298 live chum and 266 live Chinook were observed. On November 18th, 104 live chum and 196 live Chinook were observed (probably due to poor visibility caused by weather conditions). Yesterday's totals reached 607 for chum and 995 for Chinook, compared to 993 chum and 1555 Chinook total observed on the same day in 2002. Gray's river observed chum totals were 2340 on November 10th. The chum data can be found on the FPC website.

As of yesterday (11/18), operations changed to 11.4-11.7 tailwater elevation at Bonneville. Dave Wills, USFWS, extended appreciation to the COE for doing such a great job operating within the requested range.

ACTION: TMT agreed to take a field trip during their next scheduled TMT meeting, December 3rd, to observe chum in the Mainstem, Hamilton Springs, and Hardy and Duncan Creeks. Those interested in a ride should meet at the east side of the NOAA building at 8 am. Otherwise, meet at the boat ramp at Beacon Rock at 9 am to begin the tour. The facilitation team will email information about where to meet for the TMT meeting at noon.

Spring Creek Update:

Dave Wills, USFWS, reported that BPA, the COE, and USFWS are discussing three corner collector treatment scenarios for Spring Creek operations in March 2004. These options will be presented to TMT after more discussion occurs between the three federal agencies. Dave will continue to update TMT on this issue.

2004 Water Management Plan Fall/Winter Update:

Cindy Henriksen, COE, reported that the 2004 WMP has been finalized, and now the Action Agencies are working on the Fall/Winter update. The AA's are using 2003's update as a template. New items from 2003 include chum operations and criteria for chum operation decisions used this year; and flood control operations at Libby.

ACTION: TMT members will review the Fall/Winter update and come prepared to comment on it at the December 3rd TMT meeting.

TMT Process Meeting:

TMT agreed to hold a process meeting during the second half of the December 17th TMT meeting. The facilitation team will work with TMT members to develop the agenda.

Lessons Learned Report to IT in December:

TMT will present the following information to the IT, to highlight lessons learned and shared at TMT's year end review on November 5th:

- NOAA's in-river survival results – Paul Wagner
- 2003 summer operations at Dworshak (Nez Perce/Idaho plan and temperature) – COE

NOTE: The 2001 in-river and transport results information will be presented to IT at a later date, as more data from the transport study is further analyzed, unless NOAA's white paper on this is completed by the IT meeting.

Operations Update:

Grand Coulee is at elevation 1286', and Hungry Horse is at 3530'. Libby is releasing 20 kcfs, which will remain the maximum for the rest of the year as the project experienced a forced outage. Libby is operating to reach 2411' by the end of December. The COE is looking at the possibility of implementing a burbot operation at Libby. Minimum outflows continue at Dworshak, which is at elevation 1515'. Albeni Falls is operating at a 2051-2051.5' elevation. Cold and dry weather conditions are expected through the week. Kyle Martin, CRITFC, added that there should be more precipitation next week.

Next Meeting, FIELD TRIP, December 3rd, 9:00 AM:

TMT will meet at Beacon Rock at 9 am to begin a field trip of Hamilton Springs and Hardy and Duncan Creek, and the Mainstem. The team will then go to Charburger at noon for discussion on:

- Chum Update
- Spring Creek Update
- WMP Fall/Winter Update
- Operations Update

1. Greeting and Introductions

The November 19 Technical Management Team meeting was chaired by Cindy Henriksen of the Corps and facilitated by Donna Silverberg. The following is a distillation, not a verbatim transcript, of items discussed at the meeting and actions taken. Anyone with questions or comments about these minutes should call Turner at 503/808-3945.

2. Chum Update.

Boyce said new chum numbers have been posted to the Fish Passage Center homepage. Surveys took place on Friday and Monday; field crews counted 298 live chum and 266 live chinook on the spawning grounds. Counts went down on Monday, said Boyce; crews only observed 104 live chum and 196 live chinook. We believe that is an

artifact of weather conditions and visibility, and expect numbers to increase again when the field crews go back out this Friday, he said.

Boyce noted that, compared to 2002, when the highest chum return in the past five years occurred, counts are somewhat lower in 2003 (607 total, compared to 993 chum by this date in 2002), although again, visibility is likely a factor in the decreased counts. Boyce noted that tailwater elevations at Bonneville have been in the 11.4-11.7-foot range since yesterday. The tributaries are beginning to flow, and we're seeing a bit of a backwater effect, which is allowing the action agencies to release a bit less water at Bonneville to maintain the tailwater range. In response to a question, Boyce said the most recent (November 10) chum count in Greys River showed 2,340 adult chum.

Paul Wagner suggested a TMT field trip to the Lower Columbia spawning grounds for the next scheduled meeting, December 3. Boyce said this should be possible. It was agreed that this would be a useful addition to the TMT agenda. The December 3 TMT meeting will take place following the field trip.

David Wills said he had checked Bonneville tailwater elevations last Thursday; he thanked the Corps for their accuracy in staying within the agreed-upon tailwater range.

3. Other Snake River Issues.

A. Chris Perry Presentation. Paul Wagner reported that there is no new information available from Chris Perry at this time. Does he have any results from 2003? Boyce asked – they did have some radio-tagged fish in the area. Do you want to contact Perry? Silverberg asked. I will, Boyce replied.

4. 2004 Water Management Plan Fall/Winter Update.

Henriksen said the 2003 WMP is now final; it is now time to turn our attention to the fall/winter update. The plan is to use last year's update as our template for 2003/2004, she said; it will include information about what we've done so far, as far as Bonneville tailwater elevations for chum. She asked the group to re-familiarize themselves with the format and the chum information and criteria. She noted that the early November water supply forecast for Libby was 117% of average, which means that the December 31 elevation at that project will be no higher than 2411. Those kinds of issues will be addressed in the fall/winter update as they arise, Henriksen said. Will we talk about the fall/winter update at the December 3 meeting? Silverberg asked. That's the plan, said Henriksen.

What's happening with the five-year Water Management Plan? asked Nic Lane. My understanding is that Ken Barnhart of BPA is updating that plan, said Silverberg. I think we're waiting for the Implementation Plan to be completed before we really turn our attention to the five-year Water Management Plan, Tony Norris added.

5. Schedule Process Meeting.

We wanted to schedule a TMT process meeting, said Silverberg; she asked when the next convenient date for such a meeting might be. It was agreed to schedule this meeting for the afternoon of December 17, following the regular TMT meeting.

6. Lessons Learned Report to IT in December.

We discussed the need for the TMT to provide a report on the highlights from its lessons learned from 2003 meeting at the December 4 IT meeting, Silverberg noted. What should we report, and who should report it? We should report on the NOAA Fisheries reach survival results from the 2003 season, said Wagner. I would add the Nez Perce/Idaho plan for Dworshak summer/fall operations, suggested Kyle Martin. There was also some useful water temperature information presented in conjunction with that report, said Silverberg. Other suggested topics for the IT report included IDFG's Snake River in-river survival data from 2001 and the most recent transport survival data, although the latter information piece may not be available until later in the year. Russ Kiefer said he may be able to provide at least some transport survival information at the December IT meeting; he said he will coordinate this information with NOAA Fisheries. A report on Lower Granite RSW operations and spill was also suggested, although Silverberg noted that the TMT has not yet had an opportunity to review this data.

7. Operations Update.

Norris said the current elevation is 1286 feet at Grand Coulee, 3530 feet at Hungry Horse. Henriksen said Libby is currently releasing 20 Kcfs. The project had an unexpected forced outage, and will be limited to 20 Kcfs maximum outflow (four units) through the end of the calendar year. Again, we're shooting for elevation 2411 by December 31, she said. We're monitoring the potential for increased inflow to that project, and are investigating the possibility of a period of 10 Kcfs outflow for burbot in December, Henriksen added. Dworshak continues to release minimum outflow – 1.3-1.6 Kcfs on a day-average. The project is drafting (about 5 feet since mid-September) and is at elevation 1515 feet, currently. Inflows on the east side have picked up a little, but most precipitation this week is falling in the form of snow in the mountains east of the Cascades. We're expecting colder, dryer weather for the next few days, she said. Another series of storms is expected early next week, said Martin, not as strong as this week.

In response to a question, Henriksen said Albeni Falls reached elevation 2051 on November 13, and will operate in the 2051-2055 range through the end of December.

8. Spring Creek Update.

Wills said there is little new to report on this topic; the Fish and Wildlife Service continues to discuss various Bonneville corner collector operations -- up to three different treatments -- for this spring. We will report back to the TMT once we have agreement on the corner collector operation this spring, Wills said.

9. Next TMT Meeting Date.

The next meeting of the Technical Management Team was set for Wednesday, December 3, beginning at noon at the Charburger Restaurant in Cascade Locks. A field trip to the mainstem spawning grounds will take place before the meeting. It was agreed that the group will meet at the Beacon Rock boat ramp at 9 a.m. A van will leave the NMFS parking lot at 8 a.m. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle.

TMT ATTENDANCE LIST
November 19, 2003

Name	Affiliation
Ron Boyce	ODFW
Tom Le	PSE
Tom Haymaker	PNGC
Donna Silverberg	Facilitation Team
Margaret Filardo	FPC
David Benner	FPC
John Wellschlager	BPA
Tony Norris	USBR
Richelle Beck	D. Rohr & Associates
Paul Wagner	NOAA Fisheries
Mary Karen Scullion	COE
Robin Harkless	Facilitation Team
Kyle Martin	CRITFC
Tim Heizenrater	PPL
Nic Lane	BPA
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
Laura Hamilton	COE
Mike O'Bryant	CBB
Cheri Long	BPA
David Wills	USFWS
Michele DeHart	FPC
Russ Kiefer	IDFG
Ruth Burris	PGE
Martin Hatscher	SCL

